

SUBJECTS.

The need for certain irrigation works in the Trivandrum taluk.

should be selected and tanks should be constructed, that the provisions of the Irrigation Regulation should be more liberally applied in the taluk, and that Budget provision should be made on this account, the Director of Agriculture being placed in charge of the works, assisted by an Irrigation Engineer. On being asked by the Dewan, whether, on receipt of a portion of the necessary expenditure, the ryots would undertake the work of repairing the tanks, the Member said that the people were too poor to meet any expenditure and that the whole cost should be met by the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

Mr. P. K. Kesava Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) spoke of the deplorable condition of the drain in the heart of the town running from Putharikandam, through Vanchiyoor to Veli. It was absolutely neglected by the P. W. D. so much so that it was used for depositing night soil. The subject was brought forward at the last Assembly, but nothing seemed to have been done in the matter. The Member urged the extreme necessity for removing the evil at an early date and suggested that parapet walls be erected on both sides of the drain and that the drain be properly cleaned and kept in a sanitary condition.

Next, he referred to the irrigation of the taluk and said that no facilities for irrigation were given to the ryots. There were some tanks before, but they were neglected and the tank beds had been mostly added to the registered holdings of the neighbouring land-owners, with the result that, at present, there existed no tanks for the purpose of irrigating the fields. The Member suggested that arrangements should be made for resuming these old tanks and restoring them to their original condition. The inhabitants were prepared to bear a part of the cost.

Dewan.—Are there really any tanks? Are they entered as *poramboke*? The majority of the land-owners apply generally for the registry of such places, as most of them are not in a fit condition for use as tanks.

The Member said that, wherever there were no tanks, new tanks should be made. He requested that a report should be called for as to the existence of the several tanks of the taluk.

Then the Member referred to the Arivikkara Scheme, which had been dropped, and he suggested that the opinion of experts be obtained with a view to carry out the scheme.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.